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(c) & (d) The depth of silt in the deep bed above the level of the lowest sluice was said to be 12 feet even from the year 1853. The average deep bed is now found to be 14 feet above the sill of the lowest sluice. No silt clearance in the tank appears to have been done for deepening the bed.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—" In view of the fact that the tank is silted up very considerably, have the Government ever considered the question of restoring the original position? "

The Hon. Sir CHARLES SOUTER:—" Not that I am aware of. I must however controvert that statement of my hon. Friend. The depth has increased only two feet since 1853."

Diwan Bahadur A. APPADURAI PILLAI:—" May I know from the Hon. the Revenue Member, having regard to the condition of these tanks like Kaveripauk and Mamandur in the North Arcot district, whether Government will be pleased to instruct the tank restoration parties to include the removal of silt from these tanks in their programme of works? "

The Hon. Sir CHARLES SOUTER:—" That question has been raised and the technical opinion is that the removal of silt in those tanks is not a desirable matter. The proper course is to increase the supply and heighten the bund and not to attempt to clear the silt. That is the technical opinion on the matter."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—" If the depth of the silt has increased by two feet, how much does it mean in the reduction of the capacity of the tank?

The Hon. Sir CHARLES SOUTER:—" Notice."

Land Revenue Administration

Intimation of impending transfers in the case of Deputy Collectors.

* 683 *Q.*—Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER: Will the Hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the I.C.S. officers are ordinarily consulted or at least intimated allowing sufficient time before they are transferred from one station to another;

(b) whether the same privilege is allowed to Deputy Collectors and other gazetted officers; and

(c) if the reply be in the negative, why they are not shown such courtesy?

A.—(a) I.C.S. officers are not consulted before they are transferred from one station in the Presidency to another. Orders of transfer are ordinarily communicated to them as soon as a decision is made. The rules provide for joining time including time for preparation for all officers.

(b) & (c) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer given to question No. 642.

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Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder:—" May I know, Sir, whether the orders of transfer will be directly communicated to the officers concerned? "

The Hon. Sir Charles Souter:—" No, Sir."

Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder:—" May I know what difficulty there is in sending a copy direct to such officers so that they may know the information beforehand and be prepared? "

The Hon. Sir Charles Souter:—" Because it would entail considerable amount of unnecessary work."

Legislative proposals for the amendment of the Madras Revenue Recovery Act with reference to the provision for the arrest and imprisonment of defaulters.

* 684 *Q.*—Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder: Will the Hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there are any proposals to amend the Revenue Recovery Act so as to delete the provision for arresting and putting in jails of defaulters for arrears of land revenue; and

(*b*) when it is likely to materialise, and when the amending Bill is to come up before the Legislative Council?

A.—The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer to question No. 643.

Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder:—" May I know when the examination of this matter will be concluded and the Bill brought up? "

The Hon. Sir Charles Souter:—" The report of the Board of Revenue has not been received, Sir."

Proposals of land revenue remission for the current fasli.

* 685 *Q.*—Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder: Will the Hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there are any proposals for allowing some remission in land revenue for the current fasli as has been done in the past two faslis;

(*b*) if so, what they are and when orders are likely to be passed in the matter;

(*c*) whether the Collector of each district was asked to submit any report in the matter;

(*d*) whether all such reports have been received; and

(*e*) whether a copy of the report submitted by the Collector of Salem will be placed on the table?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The matter is under consideration.

(*c*) & (*d*) Yes.

(*e*) No.